

The second purpose of this legislation is to prevent those latent permits for the U.S. Atlantic swordfish fishery under which no swordfish was reported to NMFS as landed after January 1, 1987, from being used to fish in the U.S. Atlantic swordfish pelagic longline fishery. Again, I would note as before that although this latent permit provision relates specifically to the use of such permits in the Atlantic swordfish pelagic longline fishery, this is not intended to preclude or prejudice any future consideration of a similar latent permit prohibition with respect to other Atlantic swordfish fisheries including the drift gillnet and handgear fisheries.

I believe the combination of these two provisions will go a long way toward addressing the threat of further overcapitalization within the swordfish pelagic longline fisheries and begin moving the fishery in the direction of reduced capacity. However, it is my sincere hope and intent that the NMFS will respond to this wake-up call and move forward expeditiously with the timely implementation of a comprehensive system of limited access for not only the Atlantic swordfish pelagic longline fishery, but also the closely related pelagic longline fisheries for Atlantic tunas and Atlantic sharks.

On a broader note, I would like to take this opportunity to express my increasing concern—and that of a number of my colleagues—over the interpretation by NMFS of U.S. HMS policies and laws relative to the setting of our multilateral objectives at ICCAT, as well as in the context of domestic implementation of our international obligations. We are equally concerned about the ability and efficiency of NMFS to put into place sensible and practicable domestic measures that are fair and equitable to all U.S. fishermen. These concerns are heightened by the impending rebuilding requirements of the Sustainable Fisheries Act and the fact that fishermen are increasingly turning to the judicial branch for solutions.

For example, it remains unclear how NMFS plans to implement the new rebuilding provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act as they relate to HMS. Specifically, it is unclear how NMFS plans to coordinate the promulgation of a rebuilding plan for bluefin tuna with the results of the upcoming ICCAT meeting in November which is scheduled to focus on bluefin tuna. Perhaps even more unsettling is how the agency plans to coordinate the promulgation of a rebuilding plan for swordfish with existing ICCAT swordfish management measures, given that ICCAT will not focus on swordfish again until November, 1999.

Another concern is that in 1995, ICCAT recognized the need to further protect juvenile swordfish and authorized ICCAT member nations to prohibit the sale, including importation, of small swordfish less than 33 pounds. This was done with the concurrence of the Office of U.S. Trade Representative. This initiative has been a priority of the U.S. swordfish industry for several years, and earlier this year, the President pledged to impose and fund the implementation of a ban on the importation of undersized swordfish. However, while the NMFS has succeeded in imposing and enforcing the undersize swordfish prohibition on U.S. fishermen, it has failed to impose or fund the enforcement of a equitable restriction on foreign fishermen through the import prohibition authorized by ICCAT and promised by the

President. It remains unclear to this day how and when NMFS plans to implement or fund this crucial ICCAT recommendation.

As one further example of concern, there is a great deal of interest in the use of gear modification such as circle hooks in Atlantic HMS fisheries as potential tools to at least partially address one of the most critical problems facing HMS fisheries today including: reducing the mortality of bycatch in commercial HMS fisheries; reducing the mortality of fish that are released in recreational HMS fisheries; and reducing the catch (and mortality) of small swordfish in the pelagic longline fisheries.

Reducing bycatch and minimizing the mortality of bycatch that cannot be avoided is, of course, a strong statutory mandate for NMFS. But, it concerns me that the first and primary approach considered by NMFS for HMS seems to be to shut down pelagic longline fisheries during some rather uncertain times and in some rather uncertain areas based on some very uncertain scientific data. This appears to be a very disruptive approach with a very high cost relative to a very uncertain benefit. It is unclear what alternative steps NMFS plans to take to quickly and efficiently evaluate the benefits of circle hook use as a potentially more effective and certainly less disruptive measure.

As we conclude our consideration of the reauthorization of the ATCA this year and begin our preparations for the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act in the next Congress, it may be necessary for us to consider a more comprehensive package of legislative measures intended to improve the management of Atlantic HMS and their fisheries by the NMFS. The legislation I am introducing today represents a good start in that direction and, to the extent a larger package becomes necessary, I look forward to working with my colleagues, the NMFS, the U.S. ICCAT Commissioners, the commercial and recreational fishing industries and other affected parties toward achieving some of the most important goals of HMS fisheries management.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,  
JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDICIARY,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

**HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 5, 1998*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in support of my good friend and colleague, Congresswoman PATSY MINK's amendment. Her amendment increases funding for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights by \$2.26 million, the amount requested in the President's budget.

As my colleagues know, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency established to monitor, inves-

tigate, and report on the status of civil rights protections in the United States. In recent years we have experienced a disturbing trend of increased hate crimes, racial violence, discrimination against the immigrant population, and an intolerance for those who are perceived as "different" because of their color, national origin, gender, religion, or disability.

Now is the time to invest in a modest increase in the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. It is important that we assess the current trends which violate the civil rights of groups and individuals in this Nation. I urge my colleagues to support the Mink amendment to H.R. 4276.

53RD COMMEMORATION OF  
HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 6, 1998*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today, we solemnly commemorate the 53rd anniversary of the uranium bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 and, three days later, the plutonium bombing of Nagasaki on August 9, 1945.

The August 6th bombing was a shocking and tragic event; the second bombing three days later was no less cataclysmic. Now, 53 years later, for those of us who dare to look into the pit of this, our historical act, we can see the impact and the aftermath of the bombings and their implications in the arenas of defense and arms control, international relations, and human rights. As we commemorate these two events, it is not only to remember; we must also call upon ourselves to say to ourselves, to our neighbors, and to our children: Never again.

Today we must also recognize those heroes and heroines who called our attention to the danger of strontium 90 distributed in our air—strontium 90 released into our atmosphere during the testing of ever more powerful nuclear weapons. These pioneers in the anti-nuclear movement helped to create a force that alerted people all over the world to the incredible menace of an arsenal of over 36,000 nuclear weapons.

Thankfully, the cold war is over. But the danger of nuclear war, of nuclear accidents, or of nuclear terrorism, is as real as it was during the long cold war. The United States had 6 nuclear warheads at the end of 1945. We now have 12,000. The USSR, now Russia and the Ukraine, had one warhead in 1949, and now have 23,000. In 1953, the United Kingdom had its first nuclear weapon; now, the nation has 260.

France built 4 in 1964 and now has 450. China also built its first in 1964, and now has 400. Today we have definitive proof that India and Pakistan have nuclear bombs. Israel, North Korea, Iran, Iraq, and other nations appear poised to inform us that they, too, belong to the "club."

It is extremely difficult to contemplate any level of normalcy when we consider the implications and the threat that these weapons pose, the constant and ever-present possibility that something, or a combination of something, might go terribly wrong once again.

The New England Journal of Medicine, in its April 30, 1998 issue, gave a special report on

"accidental nuclear war—a post-cold war assessment." I want to share with you some of their results and conclusions:

"U.S. and Russian nuclear-weapons systems remain on high alert. This fact, combined with the aging of Russian technical systems, has recently increased the risk of an accidental nuclear attack. As a conservative estimate, an accidental, intermediate-sized launch of weapons from a single Russian submarine would result in the death of [almost] 7 million people from firestorms in 8 U.S. cities. Millions of others would [probably] be exposed to potentially lethal radiation from fallout. An agreement to remove all nuclear missiles from high-level alert status and eliminate the capability of a rapid launch would put an end to this threat."

Part of their conclusion is that "the risk of an accidental nuclear attack has increased in recent years, threatening a public health disaster of unprecedented scale."

I am one of three cosponsors of H. Con. Res. 307, a bill that proposes to address this most serious of issues. Our bill proclaims that it is in the best interest of the nation and the world to ban nuclear tests forever. The bill directs the Department of Energy, which has the responsibility for stewardship of the nuclear stockpile, to develop a program that is less costly, less provocative, and less likely to spend billions on facilities with little relevance to the safety of the arsenal.

On this day, let us recall and celebrate that our collective efforts to achieve peace have prevented the unleashing of further, nuclear horrors like those seen 53 years ago in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Yet on this day in particular, let us be reminded that we must keep on working to educate ourselves and our society, and continue to make advances toward total nuclear disarmament.

TRIBUTE TO ERNESTO "ERNIE"  
AZHOCAR

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 6, 1998*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to remember a hero and leader of our community—Ernesto "Ernie" Azhocar, who died one year ago on August 18, 1997 at the age of 73. On this first anniversary of his death, we remember the many good things that Ernie did for our community, and the special ways that he touched each of lives.

Ernie was an important leader in our community, a champion of youth and education. He served as a Sweetwater Union High School district official for 13 years, as a liaison for Assemblyman Wadie P. Deddeh for 18 years, chaired the National City Lincoln Acres Community Action Council, and was a charter member and Board Chair for the Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee (MAAC). He also served on the National City Service Commission and was the Chairman of the National City Youth Athletic Association.

He was recognized in our community as both a leader and a champion of causes that are important to us. As a result of his civic activities, he was honored with the PTA National Lifetime Award, and was awarded "The Key to the City" by National City. Also because of

Ernie's extensive work with the MAAC Project, The Sweetwater Union High School District Board of Trustees named the administration center at the new National City Adult Education Center in his honor.

Ernie was born in Los Angeles in 1924, and attended local schools through high school. He then attended Military Academy in Tijuana, Mexico. In 1949, he married Maria Consuelo Aguilera, and then moved to National City. Ernie served with the United States Army in Normandy and Belgium, and also served in the National Guard and National City Police Reserve.

Ernie lives his life by his personal philosophy that "charity begins at home." He was a family man, community leader, and good friend to many of us. President and CEO of the MAAC project Roger Cazares said, "Mr. Azhocar's professional and volunteer pursuits always promoted community service, youth and education."

He dedicated his life to helping others and making our community a better place to live. His was a wonderful life. Although we have all missed him greatly in this one year, we have all had his legacy of service, love and community to carry us through, and we always will.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and children and to the larger community who was touched by his presence. We all remember and miss him.

HONORING STEVEN AND JENNIE  
GRANT ON THE OCCASION ON  
THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY  
AND FOR OUTSTANDING  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

**HON. ESTABAN EDWARD TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 6, 1998*

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend, a fellow veteran and brother from the United Auto Workers, Steven M. Grant, and his lovely wife, Jennie, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Steven is a former recipient of the Norwalk Citizen of the Year Award for his many years of exemplary service to the community. He has served, and continues to serve, on the boards and committees of many civic and community based organizations including: Norwalk Coordinating Council; Norwalk Friends of the Library; LULAC Council #2043; Knights of Columbus Post #3678; Norwalk Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Committee; Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #7138; VFW House Committee and Color Guard; Norwalk Senior Citizens-San Antonio Club; Golden Age Senior's Club-St. Linus Catholic Church; Sierra Madre Retreat Co-Chairman St. Pius X; District Knights of Columbus-St. John Bosco Assembly 4th Degree; California Congress of Seniors and the National Council of Senior Citizens.

Even after his retirement from the Chrysler Auto plant, Steven remains committed to his brothers and sisters of the United Auto Workers (UAW). He has held the post of President and Counselor of the UAW Chrysler Retirees Local #230, Recording Secretary for the UAW Los Angeles Region Five Retirees, a member of the UAW Community on Political Action and the Federation of Retired Workers.

Steven and Jennie were married August 29, 1948, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Boyle Heights. Since 1955, they have made their home in Norwalk, California. Together they have four children: Loraine; Mary; Lucille and Steve Jr. They have eleven grandchildren: Thomas; Marie; Dex; Albert; Steven; Lucille; Stephanie; Patricia; Olivia; Drew and Derek. Also, they have six great-grandchildren: Rachel; Brianna; Ryan; Nicholas; Joselyn and Issac.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, August 29, 1998, Jennie and Steven will celebrate their 50 years of matrimony with their family and friends at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Santa Fe Springs. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this joyous occasion and sending our best wishes for many more years of happiness.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN ROBERT J.  
GREENE

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 6, 1998*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and congratulate Captain Robert Greene on a distinguished career as a Great Lakes pilot, and to wish him the best in his retirement. Our home area, from the base of Lake Huron to the Detroit River, will truly miss Capt. Greene's leadership in ensuring safe pilotage and advocating on behalf of our pilots. From the time he first sailed as a 16-year-old, Capt. Greene garnered the respect and admiration of his fellow pilots, those involved in the maritime trades along the Great Lakes and many of us in Congress.

Over the 34 years of service to the waters he loved, Capt. Greene rose from an officer to the esteemed position of President of the Lakes Pilots Association located in Port Huron, Michigan—a position to which he was elected by his fellow pilots. In addition, he served as Vice President for the Great Lakes of the American Pilots Association. The responsibilities Capt. Greene took on often led him to Washington to fight for the interests of his fellow pilots and to ensure shipping safety on the Great Lakes.

At the time of his retirement, Capt. Greene was the longest serving pilot on the Great Lakes. He first sailed in 1945 and received his first license in 1952. In 1964, he joined the ranks of Great Lakes pilots, the dedicated individuals who ensure the safe passage of foreign vessels through our Great Lakes. Capt. Greene was a leader among our pilots—ensuring safety, promoting commerce, and protecting our environment. Capt. Greene met these challenges head on and put our pilots in a strong position as we near the next century.

He also understood our lakes and their importance to our community. For those of us in Michigan, our lakes are among our most important economic and recreational resources. The need to ensure commerce can safely pass through the sometimes treacherous waters is vital to economic growth in our region. The understanding of the need to protect our waters from environmental harm is equally as crucial. Capt. Greene is one of those rare individuals who understood the importance of both needs.